



Jeffrey Brewer
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May 17, 2013

The Honorable Gregg Harper
U.S. House of Representatives
307 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Harper:

On behalf of JDRF and its volunteers, I write to share JDRF's support for your legislation, the *Kids First Research Act of 2013* (H.R. 2019), which would provide additional funds to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for research on pediatric diseases and disorders.

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a costly and burdensome autoimmune disease for which there is no cure. The disease usually strikes in childhood, adolescence, or young adulthood, and lasts a lifetime. People with T1D must closely monitor their blood sugar levels and inject or infuse insulin in order to live. Even with the best of efforts and latest technology, blood sugar levels in patients still fluctuate widely and over the long-term can result in devastating complications, such as kidney disease.

Unfortunately, the incidence of type 1 diabetes (T1D) is rising at an alarming rate. From 2001 to 2009, T1D among youth increased 23 percent. If unabated, the prevalence of T1D in youth would double every generation.

JDRF is doing its part to advance research to better treat, prevent and ultimately cure T1D. Last year, JDRF spent \$110 million on T1D research. Our work complements the research being done at NIH. The additional funding provided to NIH by the *Kids First Research Act of 2013* could help us realize new therapies and research breakthroughs, that could improve the quality of life for people with T1D and help reduce the associated costs of the disease, sooner rather than later.

Your leadership on this issue and strong support of other issues that affect the T1D community are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Brewer", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Brewer
President & Chief Executive Officer